

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BRUCE BAUGHMAN FOR HIS SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor Bruce Baughman for his years of leadership and service to the state of Alabama as director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA).

Bruce's tenure has endured devastating natural disasters across Alabama, including Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina as well as a deadly tornado that killed 10 people at Enterprise High School. In each of these circumstances, Bruce's experience and guidance proved crucial to the entire region. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the recovery in south Alabama was much better than expected, and as a result of Bruce's steady hand, AEMA's response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 received national praise.

His list of accomplishments is long enough to fill an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Among the highlights, Bruce was the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) director of operations for response efforts at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Bruce also served as director of FEMA's Office of National Preparedness, a department created at the request of the president and charged with planning and coordinating the agency's domestic terrorism preparedness.

Bruce has served as director of FEMA's Planning and Readiness Division, coordinating the development and implementation of FEMA policies and procedures for use during presidentially declared emergencies. Prior to joining FEMA, Bruce served on the Mississippi EMA staff. Bruce is also a veteran, having served his country as an artillery officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, seeing service in Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Bruce's lifetime of service has certainly not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards including FEMA's Distinguished Service Award and four FEMA Meritorious Service Awards.

Madam Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Bruce Baughman has contributed in an immeasurable way to the wellbeing of our state and our Nation. I would like to offer my congratulations to Bruce for his many personal and professional achievements and offer a heartfelt "thank you" for a job well done.

I know his family and many friends join with me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the people of Alabama and our great Nation.

HONORING THE 16TH INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR UKRAINE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, 16 years ago on August 22, 1991, the Ukrainian parliament adopted the Act of Independence in which the parliament declared Ukraine as an independent democratic state. The Soviet rule over the region was finally over.

Today, August 24th, is celebrated as Ukrainian Independence Day.

Here in the United States, Ukrainian-Americans join together on this date to celebrate their nation's democracy. As an example to the rest of the world, Ukrainian democracy was created without bloodshed. Today the nation enjoys the freedoms of speech, religion and civil liberties and boasts one of Europe's strongest economies.

For the many generations of immigrants that have come from Ukraine to the United States, memories of communist rule and hard times during the Soviet reign are still prevalent in their minds. However, Ukrainian Independence Day is a day where freedom and democracy are celebrated. Especially in towns like Irondequoit, NY.

Irondequoit boasts a strong and vibrant Ukrainian community. Over 15,000 Ukrainian-Americans call this town their home. There are 2 Ukrainian churches and it is home to one of the largest annual Ukrainian festivals in the country.

In this light, I would like to recognize all the Ukrainian-Americans in Irondequoit as they gather to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day.

STATEMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE
PAMELA MINZNER

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, when Pamela Minzner became the first female chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, lawyers wanted to know what to call her. New Mexico lawyers had never used the phrase "Madam Chief Justice," so they decided to inquire if they could call her "Chief Justice Minzner." The Chief Justice's reply speaks volumes about her personality. She told the shocked lawyers, "just call me Pam."

Pamela Minzner grew up with dreams of being a secretary. She believed the job would give her all the independence a woman could expect. But after interning at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission in the 1960s, Minzner decided to study law. In 1968 she graduated from Harvard Law School as one of 22 women in a class of 500. In 1994, she became just

the second woman to serve on the New Mexico Supreme Court, and in 1999 she became the court's first female chief justice.

Minzner will always be known for her integrity. She stood strong on principle when politics threatened to poison the court. She gave freely of her advice and compassion, and public officials across New Mexico regarded her as a mentor and a friend. Assistants remember leaving her chambers late at night with the judge still working, and her husband, Dick, recalls her commitment to the law and to her work.

I served as New Mexico's Attorney General when Justice Minzner was on the Supreme Court. I remember her ability to inspire trust in the rule of law. Justice Minzner believed in the law as a force for progress and fairness. Through the respect she showed to every lawyer who entered her court, she showed New Mexico that the legal system can be fair and just to all sides. On behalf of New Mexico, I want to honor Justice Minzner for her exemplary work and life as a wife to Dick and mother to Carl and Max.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENERAL
VICTOR E. RENUART, JR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of United States Air Force General Victor E. Renuart, Jr. who, on March 19, 2007, assumed command of North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command both of which are located at Peterson Air Force Base in the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado.

General Renuart began his distinguished career with the United States Air Force in 1971 and completed Officer Training School in 1972. After commanding the 76th Tactical Fighter Squadron during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, General Renuart was appointed, in 1992, Director of Assignments, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He then went on to become Commander, Headquarters Support Group, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, NATO at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. He has served as Director of Plans for the NATO Combined Air Operations Center, Commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing, Commander of the 347th Fighter Wing, and in 2000 took command of Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia and the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Southwest Asia.

After serving as Director of Operations for U.S. Central Command where he supervised all joint and allied combat, as well as humanitarian and reconstruction operations for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, General Renuart became Vice Commander of Pacific Air Forces and Director of

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